United Nations A/C.6/70/L.10

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
4 November 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 82
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Draft resolution

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Noting that this is the fiftieth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance, and emphasizing the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations of lawyers,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for half a century,

Recognizing the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world for half a century,

Emphasizing the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities,

Reaffirming that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

15-19150 (E) 041115

Please recycle

Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[1] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which are contained in the report,

Noting with concern that the activities of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis and the further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, cannot be sustained with the resources available under the current programme budget, notwithstanding its resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009, 65/25 of 6 December 2010, 66/97 of 9 December 2011, 67/91 of 14 December 2012 and 68/110 of 16 December 2013,

Noting with regret that the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean were not held in 2014 and in 2015 owing to insufficient funds and that no United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean has been held in the past decade,

Noting with regret also that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea was not awarded in 2014 owing to insufficient voluntary contributions, and noting with appreciation that this fellowship was awarded in 2015,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Approves* the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

[1] A/70/423.

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his report in 2016 and in 2017;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the following activities, to be financed from provisions in the regular budget[2] pursuant to resolution 69/117 of 10 December 2014 as well as, when necessary, from voluntary contributions:

(a) The International Law Fellowship Programme in 2016 and in 2017, with a minimum of 20 fellowships financed from provisions in the regular budget as well as 1 additional self-funded participant;

(b) The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 and in 2017, with a minimum of 20 fellowships for each course financed from provisions in the regular budget as well as self-funded participants and additional fellowships financed from voluntary contributions;

(c) The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, with its continuation and further development financed from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary contributions;

4. *Further authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2016 and one in 2017 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, taking note of paragraph 8 of resolution 69/117;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance and, in particular, for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2015;

6. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and once again requests the Secretary-General to issue the publications referred to in his report in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

8. *Appreciates* the efforts that were undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, in particular by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its desktop publishing initiative from 2003 to 2013, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications and made possible the preparation of legal training materials, regrets that none of the publications referred to in the report of the Secretary-General has been issued since 2014, when desktop publishing was discontinued owing to lack of resources, and recommends that the necessary resources be made available to resume this successful initiative;

[2] See A/70/6 (Sect. 8), para. 8.61.

9. *Requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

10. *Requests* that interns and research assistants be enlisted for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as well as a handbook on international law;

11. *Commends* the Codification Division for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme to maintain the number of fellowships available for this comprehensive international law training programme;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with courses at the Academy;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of the Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct United Nations Regional Courses in International Law as an important training activity;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia for hosting the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa in 2015, and to Ethiopia, Thailand and Uruguay for agreeing to host the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and, for the first time in over a decade, for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 and in 2017, and also expresses its appreciation to Costa Rica for its willingness to host this Regional Course;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to the African Union for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the study visit to the African Union;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to Egypt for hosting the International Law Seminar for Arab States in 2015;

18. *Once again encourages* the Codification Division to cooperate with the African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic

foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

20. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme;

21. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance;

22. *Decides* to appoint 25 Member States, 6 from African States, 5 from Asia-Pacific States, 3 from Eastern European States, 5 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 6 from Western European and other States, as members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance for a period of four years beginning on 1 January 2016;[3]

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2016 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

---

[3] The following States have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance: [...].